



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889
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Agenda # F6b
A-1-FTB-05-053
Fort Bragg City Council
In Favor of Project
Page 1 of 3

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REGION 1

APR 11 2006

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April 11, 2006

California Coastal Commission
c/o Mr. Bob Merrill, District Manager
North Coast District Office
710 E Street, Suite 200
Eureka, CA 95501

Subject: Permit Number A-1-FTB-05-053
Applicant: Georgia-Pacific Corporation

Honorable Chair Caldwell and Members of the California Coastal Commission:

The City Council urges the Coastal Commission to approve coastal development permit A-1-FTB-05-053 for the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Remediation Project allowing:

- (1) Removal of building foundations and, if necessary, additional investigation and interim remedial measures;
- (2) Removal of debris from Glass Beaches #1 through #3; and
- (3) Removal of geophysical anomalies on Parcels 3 and 10 of the former Georgia-Pacific Sawmill site.

The Fort Bragg City Council would like to commend Executive Director Peter Douglas and Coastal Commission staff for their tireless efforts to process this appeal in a timely manner. We know that Commission staff worked very hard, in close coordination with Georgia-Pacific (G-P) and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), to get this item onto the April agenda. We understand that G-P has requested that the hearing be postponed until May to obtain further clarification regarding the recommended conditions for the coastal permit. We are encouraged that Coastal Commission and Water Board staffs are working together in the spirit of interagency cooperation and partnership to ensure that the site assessment can move forward this summer and to achieve our common goal of timely and complete site remediation.

It is very important to the City of Fort Bragg that the site assessment and remediation move forward without undue delays. Our community is planning for reuse of the approximately 425-acre Mill Site and coastal access and recreational uses are among our highest priorities. Last year, the State Coastal Conservancy awarded the City a \$4,165,000 grant to acquire 35 acres of coastal parkland on the Mill Site. The acquisition involves dedication by G-P of a "coastal trail corridor" comprising an additional 35 acres. The transfer of title for the

parkland and coastal trail corridor parcels is contingent on the successful and timely remediation of the property.

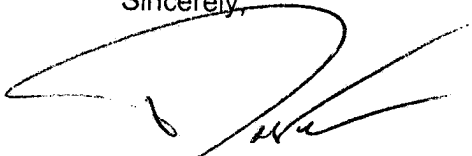
While the site assessment and remediation project is underway, the City is engaged in a collaborative planning process with the National Park Service's "Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance" program, State Parks, State Coastal Conservancy, and the Mendocino Land Trust to plan for the coastal trail and parkland facilities on the Mill Site and the adjoining Glass Beach area of MacKerricher State Park. We hope that Coastal Commission staff will participate in and lend support to this planning process.

Once the acquisition is completed, the City hopes to immediately begin construction of public access improvements along the 3½ mile coastline of the Mill Site property. Through Congressman Mike Thompson's office, we were awarded \$750,000 for construction of the coastal access facilities.

As you can see, the Mill Site assessment and remediation project is integrally linked to the City's vision of a magnificent swath of parkland along its coastline. We hope that the Coastal Commission can support this vision through the continued timely review of permits, appeals, and other planning actions. We would be delighted to provide a presentation to the Commission, at your convenience, regarding our planning efforts for the parkland and reuse of the Mill Site. Similarly, should any Commissioners wish to visit Fort Bragg, we would be honored to take you on a tour of the Mill Site property.

We encourage the Coastal Commission to approve the coastal development permit for the Mill Site assessment project. Mayor Dave Turner and City Manager Linda Ruffing will be present at the Commission's May hearing on this project, if you have questions or would like further information.

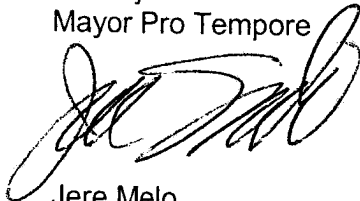
Sincerely,



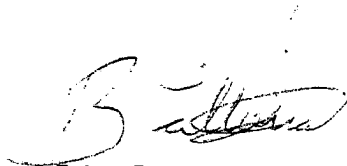
Dave Turner
Mayor



Dan Gjerde
Mayor Pro Tempore



Jere Melo
Councilmember



Brian Baltierra
Councilmember

Cc: Senator Wes Chesbro
Assemblywoman Patty Berg
Congressman Mike Thompson
4th District Supervisor Kendall Smith
Sheila Semans/Sam Schuchat, State Coastal Conservancy
Carol Stephens, Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Craig Hunt/Tuck Vath, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Action
Sierra Club, Mendocino Group